THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Invest ment made by Government in the Steel Authority of India and production of saleable ste-l during the last three years was as under.

| | Invest-ment | Produc-tion (million tonnes) |
|---|---|---|
| | Rs. crores | |
| 1982-83 | 541.58 | 5.67 |
| 1983-84 | 450.26 | 4.77 |
| 1984-85 | 586.16 | 5.28 |

Investment on steel plants made in a parti, cular year cannot be related to production in that year as such investments got completed and yield benefits only after some time.

(c) and (d) SAIL plants have not been able to operate at their rated capacities mainly because of constraints of coking coal of the right quality, deterioration in other raw materials, inadequate power ™PPly, obsolete technology and aging of the equipment. Efforts are being made to ensure adequate inputs and of the right quality, improvement in raw materials, better maintenance and adherance to technological norms. Due to these efforts, SAIL plants have been able to improve their capacity utilisation as may be seen from the table given below:

Saleable Steel
(*Million Tonnes*)

| Year | SAIL (including IISCO) | %cap city fulfilment |
|---|---|---|
| 1983-84 | 4.77 | 66 |
| 1984-85 | 5.28 | 73 |
| 1985-86 (target) | 5.96 | 79 |

**Transportation of coal**

30. SHRi SUSHIL CHAND MOHU-NTA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the pithead stock of coal has been considerably increasing, the despatches of coal have been relatively decreasing and affecting coal production;

(b) if so, what is the pithead stock of coal at the end of the first six months of 1985 and how does it compare with the pithead stock at the end of the corresponding period in 1984;

(c) what are the comparative figures of coal despatches during the years 1982-K3 and 1984-85 (till date); and

(d) what are the reasons indentified for low despatches of coal and what is the extent of resultant slippage in coal production during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 (till date) and how the inadequate despatches is likely to affect the production of coal during the year 19S5-86?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The pithead stocks of coal have been increasing and reached 30.43 million tonnes as on 31.3.1985 as compared to 22.81 million tonnes as on 31-3-1984.

The despatches have also been increasing from year to year as may be seen from following figures:—

*(Figures in milium tonnes)*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1982-83 | 123.86 |
| 1983-84 | 13°•63 |
| 1984-85 | '35-45 (Provnl.) |

The rate of increase in despatches has, however, been less than the rate of increase in coal production, thus leading to

increase in pit-heads stocks. The cum- j parativ$_e$ figures of stock at the end of j first 6 months of 1985 and 1984 are given below:—

*(Figures in million tonnes)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Stock us on 1-7-1985 | . . | 24-55 |
| Stock as on 1-7-1984 | . . | 21.86 |

(d) The despatches have been increasing during the last three years though they were less than indicated i$_n$ the Annual Plans. This has been due to shortfall in rail movement and lesser off take by the consuming sectors than what was assessed in the Annual Plans.

Ther$_e$ has been no slippage i$_n$ production in Coal India Limited as indicated below:—

*(in million tonnes)*

| Year | Target | Actual |
|---|---|---|
| 1982-83 . . . | 116.00 | 114.69 |
| 1983-84 . . . | 123.00 | 121.41 |
| 1984-85 . . . | 131.00 | 130.84 |

However, due to the heavy accumulation of pithead stocks, the production is being rationalized during 1985-86 in order to ensure that the pithead stocks are brought down to reasonable levels, and at the same time ensuring adequte despatches to the consuming sectors.

**R. B. I. Directive on short-term Bank Deposits**

31. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRl SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA.
SHRI PARVATHANENI UP-ENDRA: SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

' (a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India had recently scrapped its directive issued to the Nationalised Banks to raise the interest rates on short-term Bank deposits within a fortnight of its issue

(b) if so, what ar$_e$ the details thereof and the reasons rherefor; and

(c) whether this has resulted in great loss to the industry and public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOIARI): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India allowed discretion t$_0$ banks to receive deposits for a period of mor$_e$ than 15 days and less than one $^{ve}$ar at an interest rate not exceeding 8 per annum effective from 8th April, 1985. Th$_e$ R.B.I, withdrew such, discreation from bank$_s$ with effect from 27tn May, 1985 anj reverted to the pattern of periods and rate$_s$ of interest as were in vogue prio$_r$ t$_0$ 8th April, 1985 with minor-modifications.

The Reserve Bank of India had e$^{iven}$ the discretion to banks for determining term deposit rates for maturities under one year so that banks are able to mobilise untapped resources $^{anc}$* increase deposits. The banks experienced difficulties in responding adequately to the freedom bestowed on them to determine their own short-term deposit rates, the Reserve Bank reviewed the position and issued a fesh directive, withdrawing the discretion given to the banks earlier.

The Reserve Bank of India reported that these change$_s$ have not resulted in any great loss either to the industry or to the public.

**Recovery of loans advanced for construction of Hotels for ASIAD**

32. DR. SHANTI G. FATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to TJnsferred question 2399 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th December, 1983 and state:

(a) what efforts have been made by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India for the recovery ,of interest due from four of the seven concerns to whom loans were disbursed for the